CCBC CHOICES: 1980

Monthly CCBC book discussions, content evaluations by Wisconsin specialists, and CCBC staff participation on national and state book evaluation committees became a basis for acquiring several perspectives on juvenile trade books published in 1980. The selective listing CCBC CHOICES: 1980 was developed in February, 1981.

Titles are organized into ten sections: History, People and Places; Seasons and Celebrations; The Natural World; Exceptional Children; The Arts; Folklore; Poetry; Fiction for Younger Readers; Fiction for Older Readers; Books for the Youngest.

Susan C. Griffith and Ginny Moore Kruse

HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Detailed drawings accompanied by brief written explanations illustrate the functions and operations of compactors, excavators, graders, crawlers and cranes. A high interest book useful for older children.

Brief written descriptions of environment accompanied by earth-tone paintings of where children live create a feeling for life in thirteen different cultures of the world, in picture book format.

Anno's pictures illustrate a text about what people understood before they knew Earth was round and moved. The Middle Ages and Ptolemaic theory are carefully explained. The "arts" of astrology, alchemy and magic are interpreted and the contributions of "pioneers" such as Copernicus, Bruno and Galileo are detailed.

Remarkable color illustrations evoke the Middle Ages and recreate the story of the French national heroine in a facsimile edition of one of the most famous books published for children, the biography Jeanne d'Arc (1896).

A unique narrative version of Old Testament passages describes the Biblical basis for the Jewish Sabbath and explains its meaning and means of celebration throughout the world.

Epstein, Sam and Beryl. She Never Looked Back; Margaret Mead in Samoa. Illustrated by Victor Juhasz. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan. 64 pp.
A fully-documented biography of Margaret Mead focuses on the critical decisions made early in her career on her groundbreaking work on the islands of Samoa. Written in consultation with Mead herself.

Black and white photographs poignantly chronicle the lives of children who immigrated to the United States in the late 1800's. Written information about living conditions, daily routine and typical experiences supplements the photographs. Includes photographs by Lewis Hines and Jacob A. Riis.

Interesting visual information and written material recount the voyages by which Columbus determined he would get to India before anyone else. Careful notes accompany the text.

A straightforward account of the history of agriculture in America explores the role of slavery and migrant labor in the development of farming, the dilemmas faced by family farmers and the effects of mechanization on agriculture. Index. Suggested further readings.

A chronicle of the five hundred year period of Norse exploration and settlement in North America contains history based on the work of archaeologists, runologists and historians. Current controversies about the Norse exploration are also included.

A collection of essays and photographs chronicle the personal experience of nine youths from different South African cultural and racial groups. The portraits clearly illustrate the influence of apartheid on the expectations and routines of the nine adolescents.

A fictionalized 30-mile car trip in 1908 reveals details of dirt road driving and automobile travel seventy-two years ago. A list of Automotive Milestones and selected additional reading add to the appeal of this high-interest topic.

The history of Chinese immigrants to the United States is carefully documented throughout eleven chapters in which their contributions to the development of this country and their struggle for economic and social equality are detailed.

Readers find that slavery is nearly as old as human life and almost universal historically and culturally as they see the many ways individuals and groups have lost their human rights to freedom of will and choice.

Moskin, Marietta D. In the Name of God; Religion in Everyday Life. Atheneum. 185 pp. The cultural and historical roles of various religious systems and world religions are discussed under categories including Religion and the State; Religion and Science; and Women in Religion.

Morrison, Dorothy Nafus. Chief Sarah; Sarah Winnemucca's Fight for Indian Rights. Atheneum. 170 pp. Sarah Winnemucca was a Paiute Indian scout, lecturer, author, educator and lobbyist. Numerous photographs throughout the text supplement this personal chronicle of white westward expansion in the United States during the late 1800's.

Raynor, Dorka. My Friends Live in Many Places. Albert Whitman. 45 pp. Forty-five full-page black and white photographs of children from many cultures of the world during contemporary times demonstrate the common bond of humanity in the midst of a variety of ways of life.

Roach, Marilynne K. Down to Earth at Walden. Houghton Mifflin. 87 pp. The practical side of daily life during the years Henry David Thoreau dwelled on philosophical issues is discussed and pictured in short chapters on such topics as clothing, food, furnishings and surveying.

Siegel, Beatrice. An Eye on the World; Margaret Bourke-White, Photographer. Warne. 124 pp. Margaret Bourke-White's achievements, including unprecedented industrial photography and startling social commentary as a correspondent for LIFE magazine, are presented within the framework of her personality and as products of her strong commitment to her work.

Sobol, Harriet Langsam. Grandpa, a Young Man Grown Old. Photographs by Patricia Agre. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan. 64 pp. Black and white photographs. Seventy-eight-year-old Morris Kayle's life is seen from two viewpoints: his own as he looks back and his seventeen-year-old granddaughter's, who sees his life as part of hers. Oral commentary and abundant black and white photographs are juxtaposed in a portfolio-like presentation.

Zaslavsky, Claudia. Count Your Fingers African Style. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Crowell. 33 pp. Different traditional methods of finger counting used by several groups of people in one West African region even today are demonstrated within the setting of a busy marketplace.

SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS


Goffstein, M. B. Laughing Latkes. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. Unpaged. Spare pen and ink drawings illustrate questions and responses from which one discovers (midst whimsy) the traditions and meaning of Hanukkah. Even Golda Meir fried latkes!


Singer, Isaac Bashevis. The Power of Light; Eight Stories for Hanukkah by Isaac Bashevis Singer. With illustrations by Irene Lieblich. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 87 pp. Eight original stories, one for each night of the Hanukkah observance, illuminate the power of good over evil and light over darkness. The Nobel Laureate's understated and reflective stories are religious in tone, yet universal in theme. The paintings illustrating each story are reminiscent of Poland and of stained glass, and add greatly to the volume's beauty and dignity.

Step by wonderfully frightening step Grandpa tells Mary Ann and Louie the story of "that terrible Halloween night."

Thomas, Dylan. A Child's Christmas in Wales. Illustrated by Edward Ardizzone. David R. Godine. 45 pp. Fluid and whimsical watercolors enliven this snowfilled, uncle-filled and escapade-filled story to an audience younger than that which has been previously able to appreciate this splendid reminiscence by the famous poet.

THE NATURAL WORLD

Bell, Ruth, et. al. Changing Bodies, Changing Lives; A Book for Teens on Sex and Relationship. Random House. 242 pp. (available in hardcover and paperback) -- A candid and specific discussion of teenage sexuality details the many physical and emotional changes occurring in adolescence for females and males. Chapters include: Changing Bodies; Changing Relationships; Exploring Sex with Yourself; Exploring Sex with Someone Else; Sex Against Your Will; Emotional Health Care; and Physical Health Care. Straightforward information on drugs and alcohol, birth control, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases is included in this book for teenagers.
Close-up black-and-white and color photographs and concise text explain the anatomy of the frog.

The growth of a New England hardwood forest over a two-hundred-year period is deftly traced in poetic prose and pen and ink drawings. Questions for thought and discussion are included in this beginning reader.

A review of the work of several prominent ethologists is unified by its focus on the gorilla's cognitive capacities.

Cycles of plant life on a tall grass prairie are explored in a clear text and finely detailed black-and-white line drawings.

Eleven chapters contain carefully-research information about the production, fertilization and development of the eggs of mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, insects and lower forms of animals.

Directions for growing plants from the seeds of avocados, papayas, citrus fruits, mangoes, pomegranates and kiwis are clearly given in a concise, thorough text and many close-up black-and-white and color photographs.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

Pencil drawings illustrate the friendship of young Sam and his neighbor Jacob, who is older and slower mentally. Both friends learn many things from each other.

A brief picture book in which Darlene waits for her mother to pick her up from a cousin's home shows many different ways she occupies herself. All children can relate to Darlene's impatience and ambiguity even though few require a wheelchair as she does.

A mainstreamed child who requires a wheelchair discovers ways of overcoming his apprehensions about new school experiences.

An unparalleled guide to the lifelong process of independent living emphasizes specific ways to keep a handicap from becoming a handicap.

Sullivan, Mary Beth and Linda Bourke, with Susan Regan. A Show of Hands; Say It in Sign Language. Illustrations by Linda Bourke. Addison-Wesley. 96 pp.
A series of cartoons and drawings, some in comic strip format, dispels myths about hearing impairment and introduces the sign language we all use. Easy-to-follow directions for making standard signs representing common abstract concepts and regularly-used concrete objects are demonstrated for school-aged children.

THE ARTS

Colorful collage paintings recreate the ballet of a clown puppet with a soul who falls in love with a ballerina puppet but who meets a tragic end during a Russian Shrovetide Fair. Cleaver, a widely-acclaimed Canadian artist, presents a handsome visual interpretation of the folktale which the Diaghilev Ballet Russes first performed in Paris in 1911 to a musical score by Stravinsky.

Many types of scarecrows used world-wide over the past 3,000 years are discussed. Archival photographs show a variety of scarecrows, careful notes document the interesting text and directions for scarecrow-making complete this extraordinary book for information unavailable anywhere else in books for children.

The work of sculptors, model makers, stonecutters and stone carvers in creating gargoyles and other creatures is described. Black-and-white photographs survey stone carvings on churches and other buildings.

Artists in the visual, performing and literary arts are featured in this collection of essays based on interviews and writings. The twenty-one profiles of contemporary artists are enhanced with Native American poetry and photographs of the artists and their works.

Full-color paintings rendered by an Ojibway artist illustrate this collection of tales about the trickster Nanabush collected from several Native American storytellers.


Five Bengali tales incorporate cultural enchantment and magic. Both narrative and illustration are faithful to traditional demon tales whose sources can be traced to 2500 B.C. - 2000 B.C. Appropriate for use with persons twelve years and older.


Five Nigerian folktales provide a humorous and forceful look at several human dilemmas. Illustrated with woodcuts.


Style and color mark this distinctive visual interpretation of the well-known donkey, dog, cat and rooster whose cacophonous concert frightens robbers away.


An oversized and dramatically-colorful retelling of a tale of greed's consequences becomes increasingly tumultuous visually with watercolor paintings which match the mood changes.


The danger and terror facing Hansel and Gretel are conveyed in the somber tones and hazy darkness of ink and wash illustrations. A new translation of a familiar tale remains faithful to the original story.


Visually with watercolor paintings which match the mood changes.

Pellowski, Anne. The Nine Crying Dolls. Illustrated by Charles Mikolaycak. Philomel Books in cooperation with the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. Unpaged.

An unembellished version of the tale of a crying epidemic in Poland is illustrated by multi-colored papercuttings which use traditional Polish shapes and patterns.


Some of the best-loved riddles for young children are gathered in an illustrated beginning reader. The selection reflects Schwartz's extensive research in folklore and traditional humor in the United States.


Two Middle Eastern stories are wittily retold in an elegantly illustrated picture book.


Chinese riddles on the traditional themes of animals and people are printed in Chinese and English. Each riddle is illustrated with pencil drawings which graphically portray solutions.


A girl and her dog share a close relationship built on their daily activities. A free form poem illustrated with pencil drawings.


A prose poem for older readers recounts the moods and times of the jazz singer known as Lady Day.


Poems written for children by Karla Kuskin emphasize rhythm, word sounds, rhyme and humor. Each poem is prefaced with a comment or question intended to assist in the process of the introduction of poetry to children.


A prize-winning poet's most recent collection for children includes selections about children's experiences and poems about words and poetry.


Seventeen playful and serious poems capture mutable shadows in words.


Lyric poems celebrate numerous and comforting aspects of daily routine, such as looking in the mirror, going to the bakery, and saying good-bye to Mama. Poems interweave Spanish and English.

Twelve creatures of imaginative nightmare quality include the Darkling Elves, the Invisible Beast and other original "horrors" in poems and pen-and-ink drawings for older elementary school-aged children.

**FICTION FOR THE YOUNGER READER**


Arthur Elliot begins to overcome shyness and misgivings about himself when his summer sitter, a proud, independent woman, shares her heritage and personal difficulties.

Greene, Constance C. *Dotty's Suitcase*. Viking. 147 pp.

Dotty's indomitable will and irrepressible spirit dominate a fast-paced adventure begun when she and her stubborn companion Jed see a suitcase thrown from the window of a speeding car. Set in rural United States during the 1930's depression.


Ten-year-old Doris has strict parents whose love for her is demonstrated through their concerns and rules. A New York City neighborhood and its individual children and families are carefully drawn. A fine story of friendship for middle-school aged readers told in modified Black English.


Little Georgie wishes to fly and with the Prince of the Geese, she does, despite the rage of two earthbound townsmen. Suspense and satire mark a fast-moving, highly-original fantasy set in Concord, Massachusetts.


Carefully-drawn, whimsical watercolor illustrations extend and expand each of twenty fables showing human foibles through humorous animal interactions. This handsome Caldecott Award winning book has appeal for school-aged children and even for adults!


An action-packed and suspense-filled adventure occurs when circumstances force a temporarily-blinded 13-year-old to take control of and - finally - land a disabled private plane.


Disappointment and frustration are balanced by the beginnings of friendship during the year following Lorraine's parents' divorce.


Cookie plates, candlesticks, pirate mugs and other pottery pieces come to life as Garlanda, the uppity teapot, fulfills her mission "to bring love to someone."


Twelve-year-old Henry thinks he's found a lizard but before long the boy and his pet Vincent become involved in an adventure with an Oshkosh woman Millie, a university psychologist, and a Welsh elder dragon Aelf. This fast-paced, humorous, and original story can be read aloud successfully as well as enjoyed by 4th-6th graders who want to read a good book on their own.

Steele, Mary Q. *The Life (and Death) of Sarah Elizabeth Harwood*. Greenwillow. 119 pp.

Sarah's worries become the focal point of the summer after 6th grade when she loses track of a personally-valuable scrapbook borrowed from a friend.


Pearl finds a true affinity for music and the minstrel life in a series of serendipitous events. Information about life during the Middle Ages emerges in a simple, straightforward story.


Two curly-tailed pug dogs are purchased by two nineteenth century ladies - one plump and kindly, the other thin and severe. True to the simple justice of nineteenth century morality tales, chance and circumstance bring the dogs together again, both to live in the home of the plump, kindly lady.


A perfectly ordinary child is better at sports than most, but, unlike most children, he has epilepsy. Danny's epilepsy didn't bother him until one of his teachers was alarmed by it, causing Danny to behave badly because he felt unjustly treated. Both funny and sober, the story dispels myths still surrounding the condition of epilepsy.
Seventeen-year-old Mary James travels north from Sun Prairie in 1871 to assist her sister prior to the birth of Clara's fourth child.  Adolescent jealousy of Clara and infatuation with her brother-in-law Ellery are placed in perspective by the experience they all endure when fire destroys Peshtigo. Adults as well as junior and senior high readers will enjoy this absorbing novel about the historic Wisconsin fire which took more lives than the better-known Chicago tragedy. The author's use of primary sources is evident in the realistic details she incorporates into the narrative.

Relationships between friend and friend, parent and child, between people of different backgrounds and different stages of life, are explored in nine short stories, each prefaced by author's notes on their conception.


Robert Frost's words "we make ourselves a place apart" echo the detachment and loneliness Victoria alternately experiences during the transition time following a family death, a move and changing adolescent allegiances.

Over one-hundred color illustrations complement a classic fantasy presented in this magnificently-designed edition.

Two children embark on a journey from a filthy and repressive underground city of the future to see if "outside" really does exist.

Equipped with gear from L. L. Bean, Ted and Joe go on a fishing and camping trip that ends in near tragedy. This adventure takes place in "the Midwest" in the 1940's. The author based much of the setting on his personal knowledge of southeastern Wisconsin.

A subtle and haunting memory piece unfolds as an adult looks back on the events of her sixth year when her father fought in World War II and when the remaining family lived with relatives. Childhood innocence enables grim and suspense-filled human events to be sustained. (First Place Winner:  CCBC Mock Newbery Vote, January, 1981)

From the perspective of adulthood, Sara Louise recalls with wit and insight her childhood jealousy of her twin sister Caroline. During her turbulent, self-absorbed adolescence, she blamed her family and friends, the Chesapeake Bay island where they lived, and even World War II for her unhappiness. Winner of the 1981 Newbery Award.

When her close friend since childhood murders his adoptive parents and kills himself, 17-year-old Lynn gains insight from professional therapy and truly-understanding parents as she tries to recall what David told her at noon the day he died. A sensitive topic handled unusually well in realistic fiction.

A 1930's setting provides the background for lonely children - each disabled but not necessarily handicapped - to develop a project together in which they believe and which, by the doing they each grow and change.

Kathy's future in tennis requires talent and excellence on the courts and money and the unequivocal support of family and friends. An eye-opening account of the rigors and demands of competitive tennis is a believable mystery as well.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNGEST

A humorous twist turns the lonely predicament of the only remaining dog in the litter into a first triumph. Text in large print accompanied by watercolor and line drawings.

A child collects dreams, proclaims Secret Favor Day, builds trees, and counts hours, minutes and seconds in the four stories which comprise this beginning reader.
Little Jessie McWhistle submits to midday bathing only after running away from her house and "bathing" under the direction of Mrs. Chicken, Mrs. Cat and Mrs. Pig. Jessie's defiance, vitality and imperturbability are perfectly expressed in Cole's line and watercolor drawings.

Vivid color and uncluttered forms tell a simple story about a chick's first barnyard experiences.

Davy and the steer Old Blue become special friends as the cattle drive makes its way across the plains.

Ten full-color paintings of typical scenes and familiar activities each incorporate a red sphere. Clues in the brief accompanying text will assist preschoolers in finding each red spot.

Uneasy expressions of hospitality greet Mouse and Dog as they go to Cat's house for dinner. Pen-and-ink and watercolors enhance the unfolding intrigue.

Word play is graphically and literally represented as Anthony searches for "ants" in all kinds of words and in a variety of places.

Soft black-and-white drawings with yellow highlights nostalgically portray the close of the day in a small, quaint town.

Familiar kitchen utensils and equipment all seen from a child's perspective as a favorite lunch - peanut butter sandwich, soup and milk - is prepared. Illustrated in line drawings and watercolors.

Preschooler Max finds music everywhere - clicking sticks against the fence, playing with pot lids, at a music show and humming to his stuffed animal before bed. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs.

A frog's inventiveness mixed with a touch of magic create the potion which enables an adventure far above the earth. Watercolor paintings express the detail of the countryside viewed from the air and the changing space of the heavens above.

Three short stories feature a sassy and lovable hero whose insistence on having her own way finds her predictably in trouble. A beginning reader.

Howard, a duck separated from its flock, spends the winter in New York City with a motley crew of homeless animals. Illustrated with watercolors in muted tones of grey, green and lavender.

An angry child tries to resolve his feelings on a solitary walk through the streets of his neighborhood in the city. Illustrated with woodcuts printed in shades of brown, grey and orange.

A highly-original picture story of transformation beginning "One day last spring, Louis, a butcher, turned into a fish...." Louis had sought throughout life to be who or what he really wanted to be - and finally succeeded! Watercolor illustrations extend and expand the text. (First Place: CCBC Mock Caldecott Vote, December 1980)